

SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 1962
from 10.00 to 11.00 a.m.

<u>Present:</u> I.C.R.C.	- Ambassador Paul J. Ruegger Mr. Melchior Borsinger
United States	- Ambassador C.W. Yost Admiral Charles Wellborn, jr.
Secretariat	- Mr. O. Loutfi Mr. C. A. Stavropoulos Brigadier I.J. Rikhye Mr. Y. Akashi

Mr. Ruegger began his statement by saying that the response of the Red Cross to the call of the Secretary-General was an unprecedented step. It was the first time the Red Cross was to go beyond humanitarian fields. But the Red Cross was willing to go to the limit of its principles to offer cooperation with the United Nations in view of its recent resolution (Prague 1961) to work for peace. As the essential prerequisite to its offer of assistance, there will have to be consent of the three parties concerned, namely, the USA, the USSR and Cuba.

Mr. Ruegger stressed the need for "explicit concurrence of Cuba" for any Red Cross undertaking in connexion with this question. The acceptance by Cuba of Red Cross intervention could be expressed in several ways and a specific mode of such notification could be flexible. It could be made to the UN or to Geneva.

Mr. Ruegger continued by saying that the Red Cross will chose and designate a corps of inspectors consisting of Swiss citizens to be placed at the disposal of the United Nations. This corps will work under the authority of the UN and be responsible to it. It would be necessary for general instructions to be given by the UN to this corps to be first communicated "in advance" to the Red Cross. This is to ensure that such instructions are in accord with Red Cross principles.

He also stressed the necessity of conforming to international law. Any conflict with international law, in particular laws applicable on the high seas, should be avoided. Here, agreement of Governments under whose flags ships operate, or who chartered ships, would be necessary before

the inspection could take place. He also stated that inspection could not take place by force, either directly or indirectly.

As for the emblem to be used by the inspectors, a flexible arrangement could be made to use either the UN emblem or the Red Cross emblem. Mr. Ruegger appeared to prefer the use of the UN emblem.

Mr. Yost referred to the agreements made between President Kennedy and Chairman Khrushchev, and stated that the United States would lift its quarantine under certain conditions. Two aspects of the question are : (1) verification of the removal of missile bases on the ground; (2) inspection on the seas to avoid confrontation by US and USSR.

He expressed his appreciation of the offer made by the Red Cross in this instance.

Mr. Yost stressed that the major parties in this confrontation were the US and the USSR. He suspected that Cuba might show some reluctance at accepting the Red Cross arrangement as a substitute for the US quarantine.

He said that the weapons to be inspected are bulky and, therefore, easily identifiable.

As for the question of acceptance by other maritime Powers of the procedure of Red Cross inspection, Mr. Yost wished that the UN ask of the maritime Powers concerned voluntary acceptance of such inspection. On the question of who announces such acceptance of other maritime Powers, he preferred the UN to the Red Cross. (At this point Brigadier Rikhye suggested that the USSR may prefer the Red Cross as the announcer).

Mr. Ruegger stated his preference for the UN to make this announcement. He pointed out the possibility of ships of other Governments, such as the Peoples' Republic of China to be involved.

The UN representative asked whether the USSR accepted inspection of "chartered" ships as well as of "flag" ships. Mr. Yost answered in the affirmative.

The UN representative said that it is the view of the USSR that the UN arrange with other Soviet bloc States.

Mr. Yost stated that there is an agreement between the US and the USSR on the use of neutral vessels. He presented a list of Swedish ships which might be chartered for Red Cross inspection.

Mr. Stavropoulos asked some questions regarding concrete arrangements. He suggested the possibility that the Red Cross might hire and pay for the inspectors who will be "on loan" to the UN. The UN would reimburse the Red Cross for the salaries paid by the Red Cross.

Mr. Ruegger said that these concrete matters could be worked out. He saw no objection in principle to the arrangements suggested by Mr. Stavropoulos.

Mr. Ruegger reiterated the importance which the Red Cross attaches to Cuban consent, and also the necessity of the UN to communicate its instructions to the inspections previously to Geneva.

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